

## Spotlight – Solano County Department of Resource Management (from the September 2015 CSDC Network News)

*Solano County Department of Resource Management has been a State Data Center (SDC) Affiliate since 2011.*



The Solano County Department of Resource Management serves the County Board of Supervisors and the public at-large through the administration and enforcement of federal, state, and local laws and policies pertaining to environmental health, building construction, and land use planning. Within the Department, the Planning Services Division, Advanced Planning Section has taken on the lead role as the State Data Center Affiliate since 2011. Although the Planning Services Division acts as the lead contact, SDC tools and data are utilized by multiple County departments.

The Advanced Planning Section is responsible for processing General Plan amendments (including Housing Element updates), Specific Plans, zoning ordinance updates, and climate action planning; administering housing rehabilitation programs and the Integrated Waste Management Program; and coordinating with other local agencies to carry out various programs and projects. The Section also serves as the primary liaison to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) for any regional planning efforts being undertaken.



*Matt Walsh, Principal Planner*

Matt Walsh, Principal Planner, is the primary contact for SDC-related activities for Solano County. Matt's responsibilities generally relate more to land use planning activities and less to data and demographic analysis. However, planning staff does utilize SDC data and research capabilities to obtain census tract population information to determine each local jurisdiction's share of the costs relating to waste disposal fees. Additionally, the SDC data are used by the Sonoma County Department of Health and Social Services (H&SS) in creating its various public outreach efforts and by the Registrar of Voters for voter precinct mapping.

Matt has worked for the Planning Services Division of Solano County for 18 years. The first nine were in the Current Planning Section, where his duties were primarily related to processing use permits and tentative subdivision maps as well as performing environmental review (CEQA) of various projects. The last nine years have been in the Advanced Planning Section, where his responsibilities are more related to policy planning, including General and Specific Plan work, zoning ordinance updates, the development of a Climate Action Plan and Sea Level Rise Strategic Plan, and serving as the primary staff conduit between the County and other local agencies on policy and land use matters.

Outside of work, Matt looks for windows of opportunity to go hiking, camping, and playing softball here and there. However, his two young boys at home continually keep him busy, and his attempts at personal recreational activities are few and far between these days.